**CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT**

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BRAZIL, BURMA, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, MEXICO, NIGERIA, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Joint Memorandum on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

The delegations of Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic continue to view with deep concern that it has not so far been possible to reach agreement on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. They had expressed their apprehensions and anxieties in this regard in their earlier joint memoranda (ENDC/159 and ENDC/177).

Ever since 1959, when the General Assembly of the United Nations became seized of this question, it has adopted Resolutions each year on the urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests.

In its latest Resolution on the subject, 2343 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, the General Assembly has urged all States which have not so far adhered to the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water to do so without further delay, and has called upon all nuclear-weapon States to suspend nuclear weapon tests in all environments, and has expressed the hope that States would contribute to an effective international exchange of seismic data. Finally, the resolution has requested the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee to take up as a matter of urgency the elaboration of a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests and to report to the General Assembly on this matter at its twenty-third session.

In the Preamble of the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963 the three nuclear-weapon powers parties to the Treaty had expressed their determination "to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time and to continue negotiations to this end."

It is a matter of utmost regret that despite the General Assembly resolution 1762 (XVI), which had condemned all nuclear weapon tests, and the Partial Test Ban Treaty, nuclear weapon tests have not been suspended but are continuing both in atmosphere and underground.

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The eight delegations are gravely concerned by the fact that all countries have not yet adhered to the Partial Test Ban Treaty. Tests in the atmosphere are, in fact, taking place at an increasing rate and the yields of such tests have reached the megaton range, resulting once again in widespread radioactive contamination, which had started diminishing since the conclusion of the Partial Test Ban Treaty.

Nuclear weapon testing underground is also continuing at a high frequency and with increasing yields, thus substantiating the fears expressed in the Memorandum of the eight delegations of August 17, 1966, that continued testing would impart "a renewed impetus to the arms race, bringing about unforeseeable consequences in regard to imbalance and mistrust in the relationship between States and causing immense and increasing diversion of human and material resources for purposes of war."

There have also been reports that large underground tests have led to leakages of radioactivity outside the territorial limits of testing States, thus causing infringements of the Partial Test Ban Treaty. Even if these incidents have not been deliberate, they may eventually lead to a weakening of the Partial Test Ban Treaty and even endanger its very existence.

The heavy costs involved in nuclear weapon testing and the continued drain on highly specialized personnel being used for the further development and sophistication of nuclear weapons are a matter of serious concern for the international community. Considerable economic and technical resources and personnel could be redirected to peaceful scientific efforts and co-operation in the peaceful nuclear field if a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty were concluded.

The eight delegations reaffirm their strong view that a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests would be an important step in the field of disarmament and would constitute an earnest of the intention of the nuclear-weapon Powers to carry out their obligations in accordance with the Partial Test Ban Treaty.

The eight delegations are aware that the differences among the nuclear-weapon Powers on the question of verification and the type of system needed for monitoring a treaty banning underground tests have not yet been resolved in spite of the fact that there has been considerable progress in regard to methods of control of an underground test ban.

The eight delegations note that various proposals have been put forward in the Committee by several delegations. They view with deep apprehension the fact that no serious negotiations have taken place on these proposals. These proposals should be studied further without delay.

Further international discussion could be held to promote an organized international exchange of seismic data from national seismological stations. Such an exchange would help to provide a better scientific basis for national evaluation of underground events.

An encouraging development has been that experts from various countries including four nuclear-weapon States have recently had an unofficial meeting in order to exchange views and hold discussions in regard to the adequacy of such methods. It is the view of the eight delegations that such discussions are useful and should continue.

In the Non-Proliferation Treaty and in connexion with discussions on it the question of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes has been given considerable prominence. This question is, however, also closely linked with a comprehensive test ban. This aspect of the matter underlines the urgency of a universal and comprehensive solution of the problem of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes in the context of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

The eight delegations strongly urge that renewed and urgent efforts be made to conclude a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Pending the conclusion of such a treaty, the eight delegations reaffirm their strong and consistent view that the nuclear-weapon States should take immediate steps for the discontinuance of all nuclear weapon tests.

Geneva, August 26, 1968